GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1575
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS IN ASSAM
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) discipline-wise number of doctors in Allopathy, Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, Unani and Yoga appointed under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in Assam during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) yet to be upgraded in Assam and shortfall in total number of medical and paramedical staff;

(c) the action taken by the Government to equip these PHCs with adequate medical and paramedics staff; and

(d) the reasons for shortfall/delay in appointments of doctors in Assam?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) The staff including the doctors are appointed by the respective State Governments including Assam for the facilities created and upgraded under National Rural Health Mission. The staff under National Rural Health Mission is appointed only on contractual basis. As on 31st August 2008, a total of 249 AYUSH doctors have been appointed on contractual basis in the State of Assam.

(b) to (d) Under NRHM funds are released to all States/UTs including the state of Assam for NRHM additionalities including upgradation of PHCs. The number of PHC to be upgraded depends on the priority of the State Governments as reflected in their annual Programme Implementation Plan which is examined and approved by National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC) under NRHM.

The regular staff is appointed by the State Government. However, to tide over the problem of shortfall, the staff including doctors, specialists and paramedics is being appointed under contract basis from the funds being released under NRHM by the Central Government. As on 31st August, 2008, 26225 ASHAs have been selected, 5029 SCs are functional with one ANM and 1694 SCs are functioning with second ANM.No PHC is functioning without doctor and 149 PHCs are functioning with 3 staff nurses. Apart from the regular specialists, 117 Specialists and 2230 Staff Nurses have been appointed on contract basis under NRHM for CHCs.

A Task Group constituted under National Rural Health Mission under the chairmanship of Director General of Health Services has recommended the following measures to ensure the services of doctors in rural areas which have been issued to all states/UTs including Assam:

Increase in the age of retirement of doctors to 65 years preferably with posting near hometown;

Decentralization of recruitment at district level;

Walk-in-interview and contractual appointment of doctors;

Enhancing the salary for posting in rural areas by one-third;

Increasing the admission capacity in medical colleges for Anesthesia;

Reviving the Diploma Course in Anesthesia;

To start one year Certificate Course in Anesthesia for Medical Officers working in the system at present to be given by National Board of Examination.

Recognition of five hundred bedded Hospitals to provide the facility for conducting the above course;

Hiring of private practitioners on case-to-case basis.The regular staff is appointed by the State Government.